

Approved: November 19, 2015

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

Annual Retreat

October 15, 2015

701 King Farm Blvd., Rockville, Maryland 20850

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Brenda Brooks, Maya Das, Ilana Cohen, Stacey Burton Dey-Foy, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Graciela Jaschek, Alan Kaplan, Rose Marie Martinez, Susan Milstein, Sheela Modin, Daniel Russ, Tonya Saffer, Fabienne Santel, Wayne Swann, Ulder Tillman, Bridget Ware

Members Absent: Ron Bialek, Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Linda McMillan

Staff Present: Doreen Kelly and Ellen Segal

Guest Speakers: Alice Horowitz, School of Public Health, University of Maryland
Cindy Edwards, Senior Administrator, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology
Dale Schacherer, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology, STD/HIV Prevention
Kimberly Townsend, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology, TB Control

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair Daniel Russ, Ph.D. called the Annual Retreat meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- Ms. Christine Podles, Executive Director of Ingleside at King Farm, welcomed everyone to Ingleside.

2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings

- **Approval of Minutes** – There was a motion to approve minutes from the July 16, 2015 and September 17, 2015 meetings, made by Dr. Michelle Hawkins and seconded by Dr. Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian. The motion passed unanimously by voice consent.
- **Next Meetings** – The next COH meeting will be Thursday, November 19, 2015, and December 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, first floor, Conference Room 1A.

3.0 Chair Updates

- Dr. Russ reported that the Council HHS Committee held its annual breakfast meeting this morning (October 15th) with chairs from all the HHS boards, committees and commissions (BCCs) to hear about their priorities for the new fiscal year. Each BCC had 3 minutes to speak. He presented the COH statement which has been shared with the commissioners. There was also one combined statement from all the BCCs about the importance of prevention as a unifying theme between the HHS BCCs.
- The County Council will sit as the Board of Health on November 3rd. The Commission is invited to testify regarding its priorities. A motion was made and seconded that the COH should testify and that the COH would delegate Dr. Russ and two volunteers, Mitchell Berger and Dr. Alan Kaplan, to write the testimony on behalf of the COH. The motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Russ will present the testimony.

- Dr. Russ led a discussion regarding the proposed Council bill to broaden the mission of many of the HHS BCCs, including the COH, to allow them to advocate at the state and federal level as long as the County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs approves the position being advocated. There was no motion made to send forward any position statement about the bill.

4.0 PHS Chief's Report – Dr. Ulder J. Tillman addressed highlights from the attached Chief's Report for October 2015.

5.0 Guest Speaker: Dr. Alice Horowitz, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, presented "The Role of Health Literacy in Increasing Health Equity: Oral Health."

- Dr. Horowitz gave an in depth presentation regarding health literacy, particularly as it applies to oral health and health equity.
- Health literacy affects a person's ability to participate in their care, understand dental and medical concerns, navigate the health care system, and share health information with providers.
- She stated that efforts to improve quality, and reduce health disparities cannot succeed without improvements in the health literacy of the public, health care providers, health facilities and policy makers.
- Suggested action steps to consider:
 - Conduct health literacy scans of health facilities or programs to see if educational materials and consent forms are in plain language.
 - Provide health literacy training to all employees.
 - Train medical providers and staff about the importance of oral health in connection to medical health.
 - Train medical providers and staff in recommended communication skills.
 - Use National Action Plan for Health Literacy as a guide.
- Dr. Alice Horowitz belongs to the Maryland Dental Action Coalition and welcomes anyone interested to join.

6.0 Guest Speaker – Cindy Edwards, Senior Nurse Administrator, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology

- Ms. Edwards and her managers presented a power point regarding the various Communicable Disease and Epidemiology (CDE) programs located at the Dennis Avenue Health Center. The power point will be shared by email with the COH members.
- **Guest Speaker – Dale Schacherer, Manager, STD/HIV Program** addressed STD's and certain challenges with the HIV program, including retention and care of those identified with HIV so that they follow through with their medical care and medications.
- **Guest Speaker – Kimberly Townsend, Manager, Tuberculosis Control (TB) and the Refugee Health Program** mentioned challenges within her programs. Discussion followed. Commissioners were very interested in learning more about the staffing needs of the TB program and that there is currently a waitlist of over 200 people with latent TB, who are not currently communicable yet need prophylactic treatment to ensure their underlying infection is resolved.

7.0 Strategic Planning for FY16 Priority Needs -

Chair Russ led a discussion to identify this year's priority focus areas for workgroups and then members volunteered for one of three workgroups. The workgroups met to determine their chair and to identify goals, objectives and an initial work plan. Very brief reports were then given from each workgroup. The three work groups and chairs are:

- Health Literacy – Tonya Saffer, Chair
- Communicable Disease Programs – Bridget Ware and Ilana Cohen, Co-chairs

- Public Health Accreditation – Ron Bialek, suggested as Chair (suggested by the workgroup in Ron’s absence.)

8.0 New Business & Adjournment

- A Survey Monkey evaluation of the Retreat will be emailed out by Mitchell Berger who volunteered to handle the survey and evaluation.
- Dr. Russ thanked Dr. Kaplan for hosting the COH Retreat at Ingleside at King Farm.
- A motion to adjourn passed unanimously by voice consent, and Chair Russ adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Doreen Kelly

Administrator, Public Health Services

Public Health Services Chief’s Report September 2015

SUCSESSES AND GOOD NEWS

- On September 29, 2015, the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board was reauthorized by the County Council through 2021. The scope of the Board’s responsibilities has been expanded to include all five of the program activities under the umbrella of the Health Care for the Uninsured unit: Montgomery Cares, Care for Kids, Maternity Partnership, Health Care for the Homeless, and Dental Services. The Board has created a committee structure to reflect the programs under its purview and plans to expand its information-gathering and advocacy activities to include all five program areas.
- Health Care for the Homeless staff have arranged for expanded funding for our shelter-based dental services. \$50,000 in annual funding from Health Care for the Homeless, Inc., an FQHC in Baltimore, is being provided to the Mobile Dentist, the County’s contractor for shelter-based dental services. The Mobile Dentist will use these funds to begin on-site services at Progress Place/Community Vision in Silver Spring. These funds will also be used to provide dentures and other more complex/costly procedures for patients seen at the Men’s Shelter on Gude Drive and the Women’s Shelter on Wilkins Avenue.
- Dental Services is launching a collaboration with the new Muslim Medical Center dental clinic. The Muslim dental clinic is currently under-enrolled, and is willing to accept referrals from the County Dental program of low-income seniors in need of dentures. The Muslim dental clinic offers dentures for less than the County pays to other providers of dentures. These savings will allow the County to offer dentures to twice as many seniors as had been forecast for FY16.

HOT SPOTS

- Maternity Partnership enrollment continues to grow. The number of women enrolled in the first two months of FY16 is 17% higher than the number enrolled during the first two months of FY15. If enrollment continues to expand at a similar rate through the rest of the year, MP enrollment may exceed 2000 patients by the end of FY16.

UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES

Licensure and Regulatory

- Bethesda – Performed a large rat survey and worked with Bethesda businesses, multiple pest control businesses, DEP – Solid Waste, M-NCPPC and Bethesda Urban Partnership regarding rats and trash issues around Fairmont, St. Elmo and Cordell Avenue including Battery Park. Rat issue believed to have been caused by a large construction project and sanitation issues in the area around the project creating lots of trash and displacement of rats.
- Gaithersburg – Worked with the apartment property owner, DEP, Solid Waste, and tenants regarding rats and trash. Multiple rat burrows were observed on an adjoining property. Apartment complex was not keeping up with dumpster and trash debris/burrows surrounding dumpster and adjoining property.
- **Listeria incident with a State of Maryland licensed cheese processor working out of a church in Bethesda.** Product was sampled during a contracted FDA inspection by DHMH in August. Results came back positive for listeria causing a collaboration between DHMH, L&R, the church and businesses to shut down all food processing in the facility on September 14th. In addition to the cheese processor, the church and another small business had a license with L&R. We also found several other businesses working out of the facility un-licensed. Facility was professionally cleaned and results from environmental swabbing came back with minimal growth. A re-inspection occurred on September 30th in which DHMH used a luminometer instrument as an indicator of surface cleanliness. The luminometer instrument indicated the professional cleaning was not adequate. DHMH also performed a second swabbing on equipment. A second cleaning is scheduled for Friday, October 2.

Disease Control

- In September, CD&E Disease Control Nurses conducted 30 animal bite investigations; referring 8 adults and 4 children for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) at local emergency departments; 6 animals tested positive for rabies including 4 bats, 1 raccoon, and 1 deer. Disease Control Nurses conducted 102 case investigations including 2 confirmed West Nile Virus (WNV) cases. There were 2 outbreak investigations; one was a large gastroenteritis outbreak involving more than 75 students and staff at a private school.
- On September 21st, CDC announced travelers from Liberia would no longer be funneled through the five selected U.S. airports and would no longer undergo active monitoring. Whereas in previous months Montgomery County (MoCo) received ~280 travelers per month from Ebola endemic countries, in September MoCo received 90 travelers from Ebola endemic countries. This was in keeping with ~47% of travelers arriving in MoCo were from Liberia.

HIV/STD

- Projections for the FY16 HOPWA (Housing for People with Aids) budget include adding 15 new housing clients, as well as funds for assistance with rent, utilities, security deposits and first month's rent. HUD will be increasing HOPWA funding for FY16. This will fund 5 additional rental units (total of 20 for FY16) and more funds for assistance.

- The HIV Medical, Dental and Medical Case Management units are preparing for a Ryan White site visit to be conducted on October 21, 22 and 23.

Immunization Program

- The Immunization Program had partnered with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) for three years and launched a pilot project to vaccinate the high risk population groups of people with HIV, STD, plus Refugees in Montgomery County, with Hepatitis B vaccine. The project started in September 2012 and ended in September 2015. All clients in the HIV, STD and Refugee clinics were offered the Hepatitis B vaccine. Year-to-date, 3856 doses have been administered under the pilot project.

TB/Refugee

- DHMH Refugee and Immigrant Health program performed 2 site visits in order to observe the clinic health screening process (September 23 and 29). They will perform 2 additional follow-up visits in October to complete observation of the full process. A post-conference regarding feedback about their observations is to be determined.
- A candidate for one of the two vacant TB CHN II positions has accepted an offer of employment. Her start date is October 5. The other vacant position was posted on the transfer line.
- Round II of a high school TB contact investigation was completed on September 17. Collaboration between MCPS, SHS, DHMH Laboratory and TB Clinic was successful. So far there have been no conversions.

Care for Kids

- Staff are closely watching Care for Kids FY16 program expenditures. Primary care costs for the first two months of the fiscal year are trending higher than in FY15, which is not surprising, given the growth in CFK enrollment during FY15. PCC has prepared forecasts of primary care spending, based on historical trends. If the rate of growth continues, all funds in the primary care line of the CFK budget will be fully expended by the end of March 2016.

Montgomery Cares

- Montgomery Cares staff are closely tracking utilization of primary care funds for FY16. The participating clinical providers are projecting a utilization level which is 11% above program funding for FY16. The forecast is also well above FY15 actual figures. The clinics will be asked to review/adjust their forecasts once the Quarter 1 statistics are complete, and actual performance against both projections and available program funding will be tracked closely in the coming months.